



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

September 19, 2013

VIA ECFS ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Measuring Broadband America Program (Mobile Carrier Representatives), GN Docket No. 12-264

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On August 28, 2013, SamKnows and representatives of mobile broadband providers met via conference call with Commission staff to review the current status of the mobile Measuring Broadband America effort and to discuss the CSV formatted export of the beta trial data.¹

James Miller, Senior Attorney Advisor, Electromagnetic Compatibility Division (EMCD) welcomed participants and thanked providers for the contributions to the effort and for the feedback they provided with their ongoing beta testing of the mobile broadband measurement application by their employee volunteers. The feedback received from all stakeholders has proven extremely valuable to improving the Application program as the Commission moves towards a release to the general public. A new version of the application program (version 1.29) had been issued in response to feedback regarding drained battery life and stability issues. Mr. Miller explained that beta testing of the version 1.29 of the application was ongoing and encouraged users to provide feedback via the GitHub repository.

In addition to the feedback received regarding battery consumption, representatives reported that some testers had identified misplaced tower locations reported in some test results. A few volunteers had shared feedback on the earlier version 1.24 version of the application had regarding data consumption concerns, particularly for subscribers of lower-tier data plans. The Commission and SamKnows continue to seek feedback from the carriers on these issues and emphasized the importance of providing as much detail of the problem as possible. Representatives agreed to provide current information on

¹ A list of attendees is attached to this filing in GN Docket No. 12-264.

data consumption tiers to support the Commission's consideration of the application's default 100 megabyte limit.

In response to carrier requests for improved data handling, the FCC made available a standardized CSV export for each corresponding JSON file after July 1, 2013 for all collected beta data. Mr. Miller noted that the native JSON files would continue to be made available in addition to the new CSV data. The CSV and JSON data is available to carriers for internal review using secure transfer protocols. The CSV data are made available in tar-gzipped files labeled as <Date>-<Carrier>-csv.tar.gz that contain individual CSV files with import headers for each test result element from a given test result. Participants commented that when a datacap was exceeded and what tests were executed for a manual test should be included in the tests results. Mr. Miller explained that the Data Dictionary documents the three test "Conditions" for a failure to execute tests, namely PARAM_EXPIRED, NETACTIVITY, and CPUACTIVITY.² Mr. Miller agreed that including additional information regarding the conditions for deferred tests would be helpful, and that the Commission would review the description of explicit tests executed in a manual test but that JSON result files would reflect the results of any tests executed.

Mr. Miller reminded participants that the JSON data format is documented in the data dictionary and informed that the CSV format was identical to the existing format except for the addition of the "unique_id" field. The field allows all JSON elements for a given test batch to be associated together. The FCC has internally reviewed the addition with privacy researchers and found no concerns, as the field allows grouping of the CSV files in a manner already available across elements in the JSON result files.

Speaking on behalf of the carriers, Krista Witanowski, Assistant Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, CTIA thanked the FCC for making the CSV formatted test data available. Ms. Witanowski shared feedback received from some carriers that the CSV formatted data was helpful but that the need to process multiple data files rather than a single file introduced some processing burden. Mr. Miller pointed out that the differing data elements were linked relationally between the different tables using the unique ID field; and the use of a JSON file configuration had been partly predicated on JSON's ability to support hierarchical data configurations without a need to disaggregate results across separate tables. He encouraged users to use the native JSON-formatted results if processing of the multiple CSV files proved cumbersome.

Mr. Miller thanked all the participants for their attendance and invited their continued attendance for future meetings.

Sincerely,

/s/ James Miller

James Miller, Senior Attorney Advisor
Electromagnetic Compatibility Division/OET

² Measuring Broadband America Mobile Broadband Performance Measurement Data Dictionary,
<https://github.com/FCC/mobile-mba-androidapp/wiki/Data-Representation>.

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